designing of large size open cast mines for rapid expansion of coal production necessitated such foreign collaboration;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Coal India Limited have claimed that they are in a position to offer development technology for large scale open cast mining to China;

(d) if so, whether there is contradiction between the above stated statements; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Foreign collaboration in the coal sector is sought to acquire modern mining technology, procure sophisticated high capacity equipment, give training to mining personnel in mproved techniques, facilitate induction of productivity-oriented technologies, tackle difficult geo-mining conditions, beneficiate coal and also to obtain concessional external assistance to meet import costs.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Indian coal mining Industry has adequate technical know-how to offer to countries like China, where opencast mining is not yet fully developed.

Coal price determination structure

7589. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing coal price determination structure is not transparent;

(b) what have been the considerations for upward revision of coal prices so many times within a very short period of one or two years;

(c) whether one of the reasons for this is the inefficiency of the officials of Coal industry and upward manipulation of cost;

(d) whether Government have received complaints with regard to (c) above; and

(e) if so, what action has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (e) The prices of coal are determined in accordance with an escalation formula decided by Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP). The formula being objective and based on priceindices, the question of any manipulation of costs by coal companies does not arise. The prices are generally revised once in a year to neutralise the impact of increases in cost indices. An earlier revision is also allowed in case of any quantum increase in costs such as wage revision, which cannot be accommodated by the coal companies within the existing price structure.

Although there have been no complaints alleging manipulation of costs, there has been some criticism of coal price increases from coal consumers. Government has been advising coal companies to make all efforts for improving efficiency and reducing costs. However, the impact due to the increased costs of inputs beyond the control of coal companies has to be neutralised by periodical increases in prices so as to enable the coal companies to remain profitable and generate resources for investment.

Time and cost over runs in coal mining projects

7590. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) which are the coal mining projects where time and cost over runs have been reported:

(b) whether the officials of the Coal Ministry and Coal India Limited were involved in the preparation of project report, their execution and monitoring in respect of these projects;

(c) if so, the reasons for the time and cost over runs that have occurred;

(d) whether the concerned officials have been made accountable;

(e) if so, details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) 18 coal mining projects each costing Rs. 20 crores and above under implementation in Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) are reporting time overrun. Out of these, 9 projects are likely to be cost overrun. Besides, three projects with no time overrun have reported cost overrun. Names of these time and cost overrun projects are given in the enclosed statement. (See below).

(b) Planning organisations of the coal companies prepare the project reports and their implementation is carried out by the coal companies. Monitoring of progress of implementation of projects is primarily undertaken by the coal companies. Monitoring reports are being received in the Ministry of Coal and Department of Programme Implementation regularly.

(c) Main reasons for the time overrun of projects in coal sector are delay in acquisition of land and associated rehabilitation problems, adverse geomining conditions, delay in supply of equipment and turn-key execution and fund constraints. Factors leading to cost increase in projects are the normal inflation during the period of construction, variation of statutory levies and exchange rate and change in project scope etc. The time overrun of projects further adds to cost overrun.

(d) to (f) For projects where cost overrun takes place, item-wise cost increase alongwith reasons thereof are examined in depth at the time of formulation of revised cost estimates which are approved by the competent authority. The question of accountability would arise if there were lapses on the part of project planners or the project implementation personnel. There are no specific reports of lapses on the part of individual officers.

Statement

Time overrun projects	Cost overrun projects
1. Jhanjra Underground (ECL)	1. Jhanjra Underground (ECL)
2. Satgram Underground (ECL)	2. Kalidaspur Underground (ECL)
3. J.K. Nagar Underground (ECL)	3. Kotiadih Project (ECL)
4. Amritnagar Underground (ECL)	4. Bhalgora Underground (BCCL)
5. Sarpi R/O Underground(ECL)	5. Dudhichua Opencast Expn. (NCL)
6. Kalidaspur Underground(ECL)	6. Khadia Opencast (NCL)
7. Pootkee Balihari Underground (BCCL)	7. Tandsi Underground (WCL)
	8. Sasner Underground (WCL)
8. Bhalgora Underground (BCCL)	9. Gondegaon Opencast (WCL)
9. Rohini Opencast (CCL)	10. Pangwar Underground (SECL)
10 Dudhichua Opencast Expn.(NCL)	11. Vakilpalli Block-A UG(SCCL)
11 Khadia Opencast (NCL)	12. Ramagundam OOP-III (SCCL)
12. Tandsi Underground (WCL)	
13. Sasner Underground (WCL)	
14. Durgapur Rayatwari-UG (WCL)	
15. Pangwar Underground (SECL)	

Time overrun projects	Cost overrun projects

16. Belpahar Opencast (MCL)
17. Goleti Longwall (SCCL)
18. Vakilapalli Block-A UG (SCCL)

ECL— Eastern Coalfields Limited

BCCL— Bharat Coking Coal Limited

CCL— Central Coalfields Limited

NCL— Northern Coalfields Limited

WCL— Western Coalfields Limited

SECL— South Eastern Coalfields Limited

MCL— Mhhanadi Coalfields Limited

SCCL— Singareni Collieries Co. Limited

Extraction of coal from deeper seams

7591. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister be pleased to state:

(b) whether extraction of coal from deeper seams has been undertaken;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) what are the details of the plans for extraction of such coal in future;

(e) whether as of now or in future, such extraction from deeper seams will be economical;

(f) if so, to what extent; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) About 30 per cent of coal production of Coal India Limited (CIL) is obtained from underground mines and in case of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), about 60 per cent of production comes from underground mines.

(d) With the depletion of the shallow coal reserves, depth of mining will gradually increase both in opencast as well as under ground mines. Planning for extraction of deeper seams is linked to complete extraction of upper seams. Keeping in view the geological as well as techno-economic factors, more underground mines for extraction of deeper reserves had been identified both in CIL and SCCL.

(e) to (g) Cost of extraction of coal in deeper seams is bound to be higher compared to that of shallow deposits. The actual cost of mining *inter alia* depends upon thickness and depth of seams, nature of roof and floor rocks, geomining conditions including presence of gas and water, the extent of mechanisation and the method of mining.